

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9435

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PROP, BU

SUBJECT: VE-DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A) STATE 069945; B) SOFIA 0516

1. WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT BULGARIAN PLANS FOR CELEBRATIONS TO BE CERTAIN THEY WILL COMMEMORATE NOT ONLY VICTORY OVER GERMANY BUT ALSO, AS THE PARTY ORGAN HERE RECENTLY PUT IT, "BIRTH OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM". CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN PARA 4 REF A, GIVE AMBASSADORS IN EE CAPITALS LATITUDE EITHER TO ATTEND (BECAUSE OF ASPECTS HIGHLIGHTED IN PARA 2 THAT MESSAGE) OR TO REFRAIN FROM ATTENDING (BECAUSE THE CELEBRATIONS WILL EMPHASIZE SUBJECTS THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO CELEBRATE.)

2. HERE IN BULGARIA THERE WILL BE ONE BIG OCCASION ADDRESSED BY ZHIVKOV PROBABLY IN HIS CAPACITIES OF BOTH
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CHIEF OF STATE AND PARTY LEADER. EVERY NATO AMBASSADOR

IN SOFIA IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER HE SHOULD ATTEND IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED PROPAGANDA CONTENT ABOUT CURRENT BLOC SOLIDARITY, BUT MOST ARE RELUCTANT TO STAY AWAY SINCE IT IS CUSTOMARY TO RESPOND TO INVITATION FROM CHIEF OF STATE -- AND WE CANNOT KNOW UNTIL THE EVENT TAKES PLACE WHETHER ADMONITIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN REF B HAVE HAD ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT.

3. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, I PROPOSE TO TAKE THE POSITION AT NEXT MEETING OF NATO AMBASSADORS (APRIL 22) THAT IF BULGARIANS WILL BE CELEBRATING SEVERAL THINGS INCLUDING ONE WHICH WE ARE ALSO READY TO CELEBRATE, THE THING TO DO IS TO ATTEND WHILE MAKING CLEAR WHAT WE ON OUR PART FIND FIT TO CELEBRATE. THE SITUATION, AS I SEE IT, IS SIMILAR TO THE FAMOUS HERBLOCK CARTOON WHEN GENERAL MACARTHUR RETURNED DURING THE KOREAN WAR AND WAS GIVEN A TUMULTUOUS WELCOME AND TICKER PARADE.

4. THE CARTOON SHOWED AN OPEN CAR IN WHICH WERE SITTING TWO GENERALS MACARTHUR, ONE ON THE LEFT LABELED "MACARTHUR THE MILITARY HERO", AND THE OTHER "MACARTHUR THE POLITICIAN". AND A LITTLE MAN WAS SEEN WAVING AN AMERICAN FLAG AND SHOUTING, "HOORAY FOR THE ONE ON THE LEFT*" IF THE RED ARMY IS TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES HERE, WE CAN CHEER FOR THE ONE THAT DEFENDED RUSSIA AND HELPED IN THE VICTORY OVER NAZI GERMANY, WHILE TRYING TO MAKE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE NOT CHEERING FOR THE ONE ON THE RIGHT.
HERZ

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